
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
DEVELOP RULES FOR AQUARIUM FISH PERMITTING THAT PROTECT
HAWAII'S AQUATIC WILDLIFE AND REEF ENVIRONMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's reefs are the world's third-largest
2 source of wildlife for aquarium hobbyists; and
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4 WHEREAS, aquarium collection causes a loss of wildlife that
5 threatens Hawaii's reef environments and the socioeconomic
6 benefits they provide, including benefits to tourism, which is a
7 crucial contributor to the State's economy, and to the
8 sustenance of local families; and
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10 WHEREAS, maintaining herbivorous fish populations and
11 restoring populations in areas where they have declined or been
12 lost are essential for the protection of Hawaii's coral reefs
13 and the current and future socioeconomic well-being of Hawaii's
14 people; and
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16 WHEREAS, the broad consensus in Hawaii supports replenished
17 populations of aquatic life targeted by the aquarium trade; and
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19 WHEREAS, the vast majority of Hawaii residents want
20 restoration and protection of our reefs for current and future
21 generations; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
26 Land and Natural Resources is requested to protect Hawaii's
27 aquatic wildlife and reef environments by developing and
28 adopting rules for aquarium fish permitting that:



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- 1 (1) Designate those islands on which aquarium collecting
2 is allowed, and on those islands designate a minimum
3 percentage of coastal waters in which commercial
4 aquarium collection is prohibited;
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- 6 (2) Establish catch limits by species to allow
7 replenishment and maintenance of aquatic life at
8 ninety percent of unfished levels, with permits being
9 reduced or phased out if not achieved within five
10 years in areas where commercial aquarium collecting is
11 prohibited in less than seventy percent of the coastal
12 waters;
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- 14 (3) Designate limited-entry areas where an entry quota for
15 only the number of collectors of fish and other
16 aquatic life for aquarium purposes will be
17 established;
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- 19 (4) Develop certification requirements and other
20 conditions of eligibility for aquarium fish permits,
21 including:
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 - 23 (A) A mortality rate threshold that does not exceed
24 one percent per species upon arrival and within
25 three days of arrival at each step in the chain
26 of custody; and
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 - 28 (B) An environmental assessment, environmental impact
29 statement, and cultural impact assessment prior
30 to issuing or renewing any commercial aquarium
31 collection permit;
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- 33 (5) Require monitoring of permit-holders' continuing
34 eligibility for an aquarium fish permit;
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- 36 (6) Limit the number of aquarium fish permits issued
37 annually;
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- 39 (7) Establish bag and catch limits for fish and other
40 aquatic life;
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1 (8) Enhance penalties for noncompliance with applicable
2 laws; and
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4 (9) Establish the means to ensure consistent enforcement
5 of all permit requirements, limits, and conditions for
6 the collection of fish or other aquatic life for
7 aquarium purposes; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Interim Chairperson
11 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 13 2015

